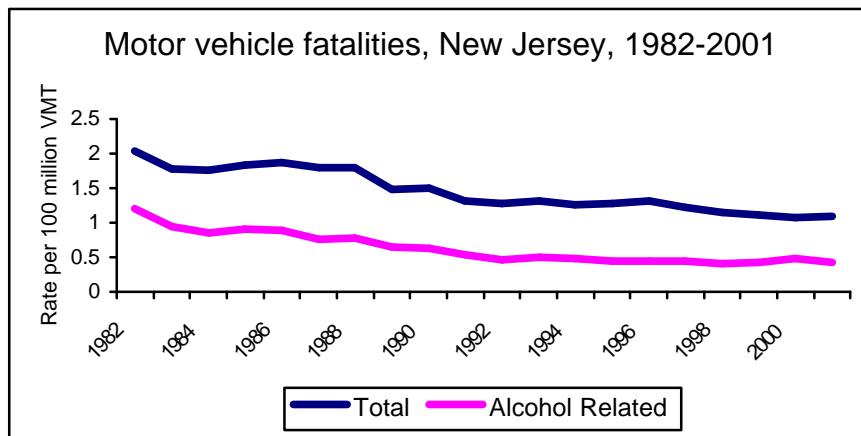


Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention

- One in three Americans will be affected by impaired driving in their lifetime. In fact, every 30 minutes someone is killed in an alcohol-related motor vehicle crash and every two minutes someone is injured.
- In 2001, more than 17,000 Americans died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes - more than 40% of all traffic-related fatalities. Use of other drugs, such as marijuana and cocaine, was identified as a factor in 18% of fatalities among motor vehicle drivers.
- About 1.5 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics in 2001.
- Substantial progress has been made in reducing alcohol related fatalities in New Jersey, which have declined by approximately 60% in the past twenty years (see below).
- In New Jersey an individual is considered a drunk driver if he or she operates a motor vehicle with blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.10 percent or higher. Many states have lowered the legal limit to .08 percent. New Jersey is considering making this change as well.



- In 2000, New Jersey drivers with a BAC of 0.10 and above were involved in an estimated 31,300 crashes that killed 231 and injured 9,800. Drivers with a BAC between 0.08-0.09 were involved in an estimated 540 crashes that killed 26 and injured 400 and drivers with positive BAC below 0.08 were involved in an estimated 1,100 crashes that killed 62 and injured 1,000.

- There are significant consequences to being caught driving while impaired

in New Jersey. The penalty for a first offense includes a fine, imprisonment for up to 30 days, suspension of driving privileges for six months to a year, 12-48 hours in an intoxicated driver resource center, and an automobile insurance surcharge for 3 years. Penalties increase with subsequent offenses.

- New Jersey has several laws specifically designed to reduce the incidence of impaired driving among minors. One is the legal minimum drinking age of 21 years. Additionally, the Zero Tolerance Law makes it illegal for drivers younger than 21 to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol in their system. An individual under age 21 found driving with a BAC of 0.01 or above is subjected to a loss or postponement of driving privileges

for 30 to 90 days, 15 to 30 days of community service, and mandated participation in an alcohol education and highway safety program.

For more data from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/chs/>

For more information about National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month visit: <http://www.ncadd.com/>

Sources:

National Commission Against Drunk Driving: <http://www.ncadd.com/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: [Impaired Driving](#)

NJ Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Highway Traffic Safety: [Driving Under the Influence in N.J. Laws and Penalties](#)

National Commission Against Drunk Driving: [Impaired Driving in New Jersey](#)

New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety: <http://www.nj.gov/lps/hts/index.html>

U.S Department of Transportation, National Traffic Safety Administration: [Traffic Safety Facts 2002, Alcohol](#)



James E. McGreevey, Governor
Clifton R. Lacy, MD, Commissioner

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Center for Health Statistics
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625-0360